

Message Text

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54

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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R 072101Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5847

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, HO

SUBJECT: PRIVATE SECTOR MEETING WITH GEN LOPEZ

1. DCM DISCUSSED DEC 5 MEETING BETWEEN GEN LOPEZ AND REPS OF PRIVATE SECTOR WITH HUMBERTO LEON, ONE OF PRINCIPAL DRAFTERS OF LIST OF GRIEVANCES GIVEN TO LOPEZ.

2. LEON EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT GROUP HAD REQUESTED RESIGNATIONS OF ANY MINISTERS. HE SAID THIS IMPRESSION MAY HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE OF CERTAIN SPECIFIC CRITICISMS AIMED AT WORK OF MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND ECONOMY.

3. WE WILL SUMMARIZE COMPLAINTS MADE IN SUBSEQUENT CABLE, AS THEY ARE LENGTHY. BUT EXAMINATION OF CONVERSATIONAL RECORD OF MEETING SHOWS THAT COMPLAINTS WERE FAIRLY ROUTINE AND MODERATELY EXPRESSED. THEY MAINLY FOCUSSED ON "TILTING" TOWARDS LABOR ON SOME MATTERS, CONTINUED BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY IN SOME OFFICES, AND LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR ON DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

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4. IN REPLY, LOPEZ PROMISED TO BEGIN DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR IMMEDIATELY. LEON DESCRIBED HIS RECEPTION OF GROUP AS CORDIAL AND SAID THAT ENTREPRENEURS WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH HIS RESPONSES.

COMMENT: ORAL REPORTS OF MEETING IN SOME GOVERNMENT CIRCLES WERE ALARMIST AND INDICATED SOME SORT OF RADICAL CONFRONTATION HAD TAKEN PLACE IN WHICH PRIVATE SECTOR DEMANDED DISMISSAL OF MINISTERS FONSECA, ACOSTA, BENNATON AND RIVERA. REALITY, HOWEVER, WAS QUITE DIFFERENT.
SANCHEC

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